

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system comprising:

a fuel cell assembly having one or more fuel cells and ~~adapted to include further including~~ one or more direct internal forming reforming passages and one or more indirect internal reforming passages for reforming a fuel supply; and

a coupling assembly for selectively and adjustably controlling the coupling of a first ~~and second~~ fuel supply portions portion to the respective one or more indirect internally reforming passages and a second fuel supply portion to the one or more direct internally reforming passages, said coupling assembly enabling selective and adjustable controlling of said first fuel supply portion and selective and adjustable controlling of said second fuel supply portion.

2. A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

said fuel cell system further comprises a heater for heating supply fuel; and  
said coupling assembly receives said heated supply fuel from said heater and segments said heated supply fuel into said first and second fuel supply portions.

3. (Original) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 1, wherein

said fuel cell system further comprises a heater; and  
said coupling assembly receives a supply fuel, segments said supply fuel into said first and second fuel supply portions and carries said second fuel supply portion through said heater prior to said second fuel supply portion being coupled to said one or more indirect internal reforming passages.

4. (Original) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

said coupling assembly combines said second fuel supply portion with the stream from said one or more indirect internal reforming passages to form a combined stream and couples the combined stream to the one or more direct internal reforming passages.

5. (Original) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 4, wherein:

said coupling assembly comprises: a junction point which receives fuel supply and segments said fuel supply into said first and second fuel supply portions; a combiner; a first conduit for carrying said first fuel supply portion to said one or more indirect internal reforming passages; a second conduit for carrying said second fuel supply portion to said combiner; the stream from said one or more indirect internal reforming passages being coupled to said combiner; and the combined stream of said combiner being coupled to said one or more direct internal reforming passages.

6. (Original) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 5, wherein:

said coupling assembly further comprises: a first valve in said first conduit for adjusting the first fuel supply portion; and a second valve in said second conduit for adjusting the second fuel supply portion.

7. (Original) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 6, wherein:

said fuel cell system further comprises a heater which precedes said junction point and heats said fuel supply prior to said fuel supply being received in said junction point.

8. (Original) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 7, wherein:

said heater heats said fuel supply with cathode exhaust gas from said one or more fuel cells; and

said fuel cell system further comprises: a mixer for mixing anode exhaust gas

from said one or more fuel cells with an oxidant supply; an oxidizer for receiving the stream from said mixer, said oxidizer output serving as the cathode inlet gas for said one or more fuel cells.

9. (Original) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 6, wherein:

    said fuel cell system further comprises a heater which follows said junction point and heats said first fuel supply portion before said first fuel supply portion is carried to said one or more indirect internal reforming passages.

10. (Original) A fuel cell system in accordance with claim 9, wherein:

    said heater heats said fuel supply with cathode exhaust gas from said one or more fuel cells; and

    said fuel cell system further comprises: a mixer for mixing anode exhaust gas from said one or more fuel cells with an oxidant supply; an oxidizer for receiving the stream from said mixer, said oxidizer output serving as the cathode inlet gas for said one or more fuel cells.